

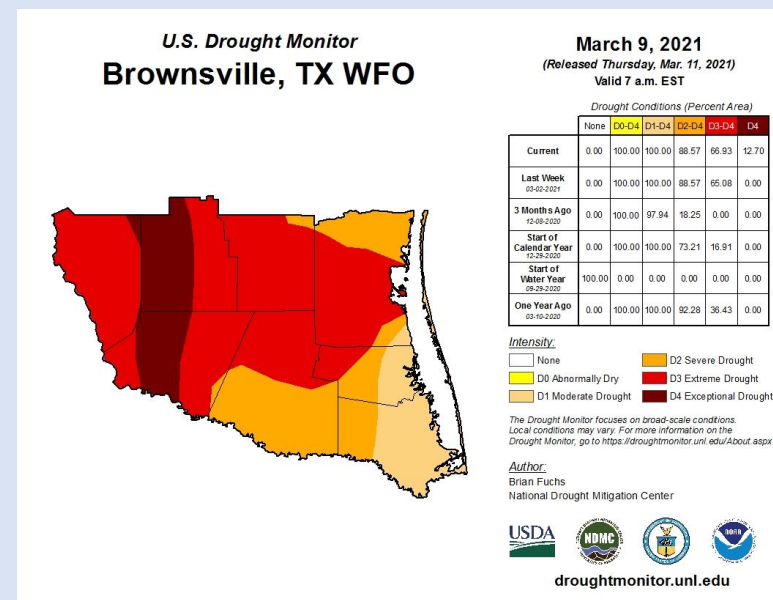
Fire Weather Briefing – Key Points

Weather Forecast Office
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX



March 16th, 2021, Afternoon/Evening

- “Dry” Front Will Bring a heat spike, very low humidity, and strong winds on Wednesday.
- Most **extreme conditions – highest temperature, lowest humidity, strong wind** will occur over areas in extreme to exceptional drought and west of IH-69C
- Even where drought is less (moderate to severe), critical conditions are expected due to continued cured grasses and brush after the damaging February Freeze
- Timing for rapid to explosive spread of wildfire:
 - 11 AM to 6 PM West of IH-69C/US 281
 - 1 PM to 7 PM East of IH-69C/US 281
- Farmers/Ranchers: **Do NOT plan any activities in fields or brush on Wednesday.** A spark could ignite a conflagration in just a few hours.
- Others: **Do not plan to burn anything, anywhere.**



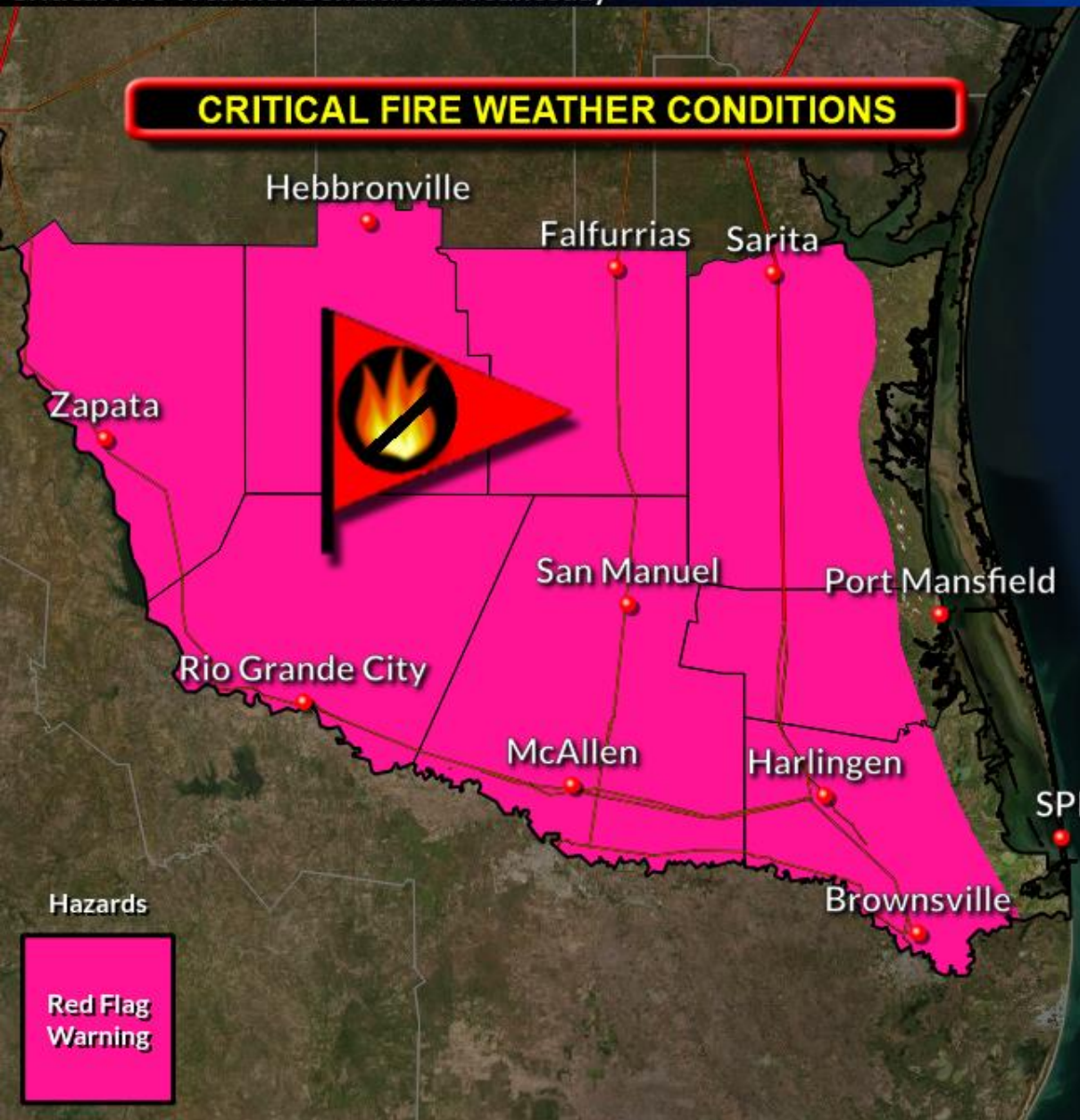
Red Flag Warning

Critical Fire Weather Conditions Wednesday

Weather Forecast Office
Brownsville/RGV, TX
Issued Mar 16, 2021 2:57 PM CDT



CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER CONDITIONS



Red Flag Warning

What:

Winds: NW 15-25, gusts 20-30 mph

Humidity: 10-20%

Where:

All of inland Deep South Texas

When:

From 7 AM to 7 PM Wednesday

Impacts:

Rapid wildfire growth and spread
Erratic fire behavior

**Outdoor burning should be
banned or postponed**

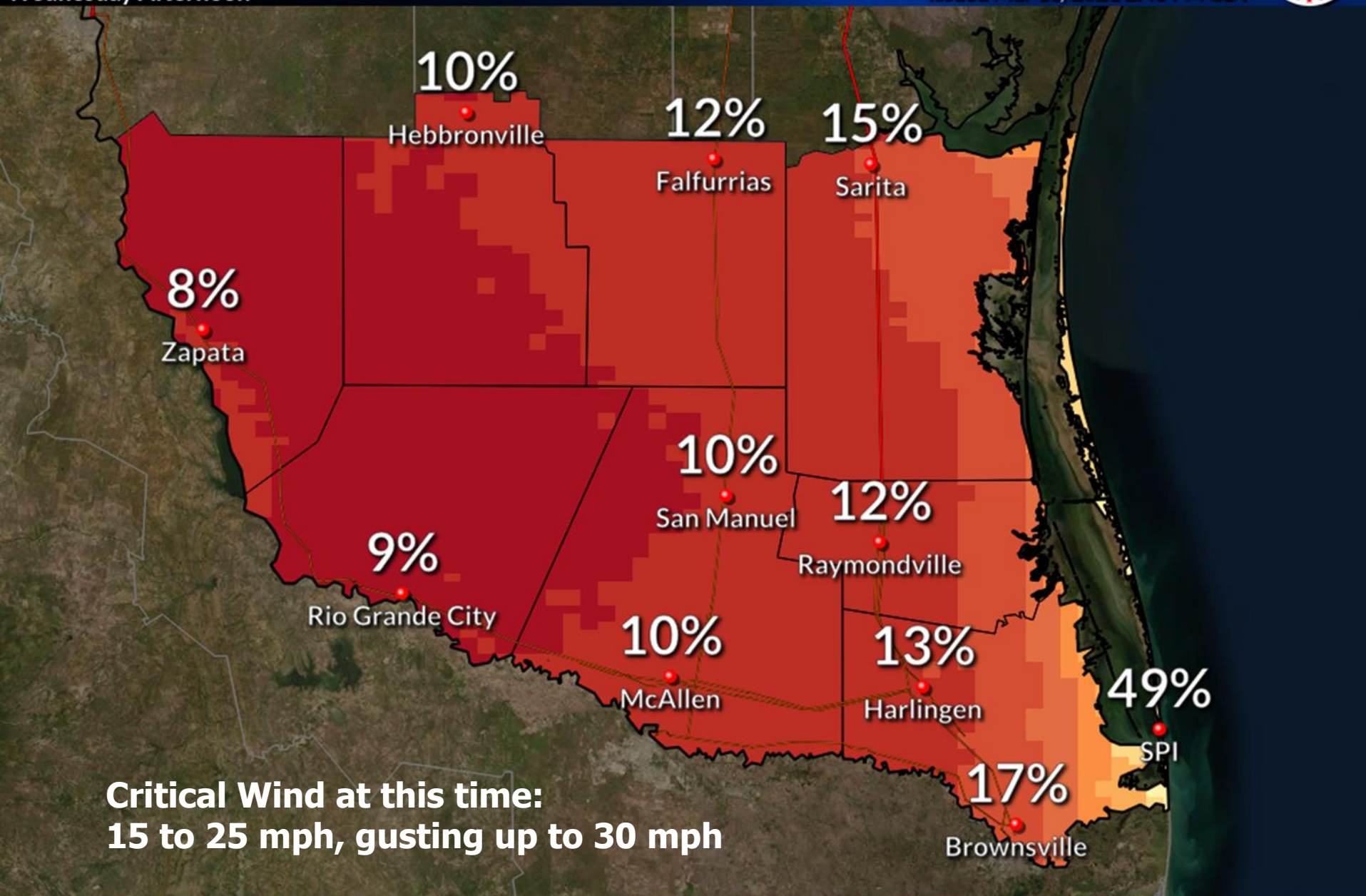
Hazards

Red Flag
Warning

Relative Humidity Minimum

Wednesday Afternoon

Weather Forecast Office
Brownsville/RGV, TX
Issued Mar 16, 2021 2:46 PM CDT



**Critical Wind at this time:
15 to 25 mph, gusting up to 30 mph**

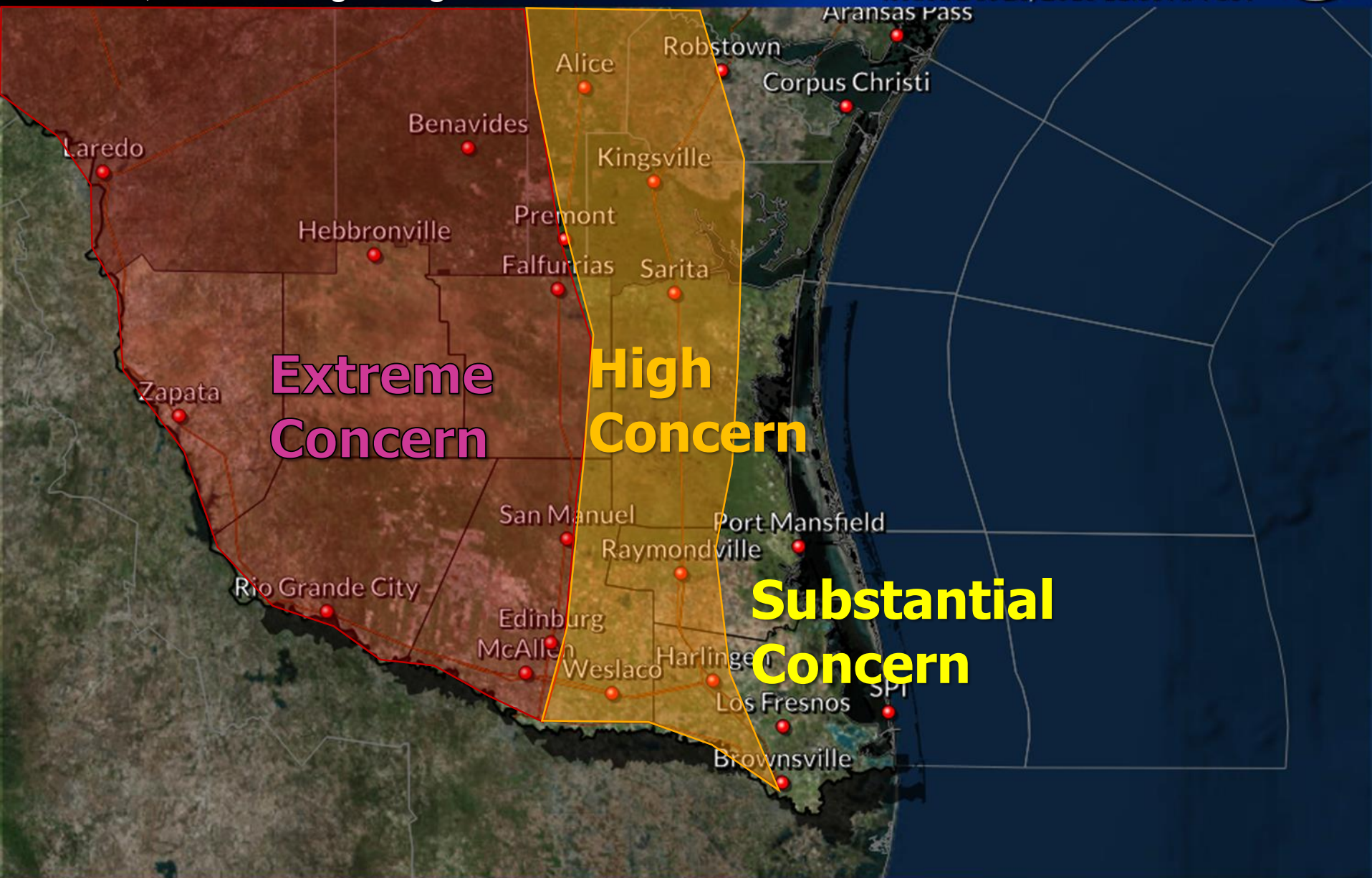
Areas of Concern

Weather Forecast Office
Brownsville/RGV, TX

Issued Dec 28, 2018 11:30 AM CST



March 17, Late Morning through Late Afternoon





Prepare and Prevent Fires on Grass and Brush!

It's important for the safety of your home and nearby wildlands to learn how to use and maintain outdoor equipment and vehicles in ways that prevent sparking a wildfire. Remember to always keep a cell phone nearby and call 911 immediately in case of fire.

Vehicle Safety

- Be sure chains and other metal parts aren't dragging from your vehicle-they throw sparks.
- Check your tire pressure. Driving on an exposed wheel rim can cause sparks.
- Be careful driving through or parking on dry grass or brush. Hot exhaust pipes can start the grass on fire. You may not even notice the fire until it's too late.
- Never let your brake pads wear too thin; metal on metal makes sparks.

Lawn Care

- Sparks from lawnmowers and power equipment DO start wildfires. Be careful on hot, dry days, and be sure to get your equipment checked regularly.
- Mow before 10 a.m., but never when it's windy or excessively dry. Remember that lawn mowers are designed to mow lawns, not weeds or dry grass. Metal lawnmower blades striking rocks can create sparks and start fires.
- In wildland areas, spark arresters are required on all portable, gasoline-powered equipment. A spark arrester is a mechanical device that traps or destroys hot exhaust particles that have been released from an internal combustion engine. They're commonly required on tractors, harvesters, chainsaws, weed eaters and lawnmowers.
- There are two types of spark arresters: multiposition small engine (MSE) and general purpose (GP). MSEs are for handheld equipment such as chainsaws and leaf blowers. GPs are for engines that remain in a single position, such as tractors and motorcycles. While spark arresters are not 100 percent effective, they greatly reduce the risk of starting a wildfire.
- Keep the exhaust system, spark arresters and engine in proper working order and free of carbon buildup. Use the recommended grade of fuel and don't fill to the point of overflowing.
- When doing any yardwork or work outdoors with mechanical equipment, keep a shovel and a fire extinguisher handy.
- In wildland areas, grinding and welding operations require a permit and 10 feet of clearance.

- Deep S. Texas is only behind East Texas in recent wildfires. Since early March, more than one thousand acres has burned.
- Don't increase that number on St. Patrick's Day! Smokey Bear says: Only YOU can prevent wildfires. Let's keep the number at ZERO for the day.
- Websites to help you prepare:

<https://weather.gov/safety/wildfire>

<https://firewise.org>

<https://smokeybear.com>

<https://ticc.tamu.edu> – Texas Interagency Coordination Center

